



Winter 2015

## Good Neighbor News

A City of Carlsbad Police Department Neighborhood Watch Publication



### Steps to Prevent Cyberbullying

*Start a conversation and stop Cyberbullying.*

Cyberbullying can have serious repercussions. It is important to work together to prevent

cyberbullying but first we must understand what it is.

#### Examples of cyberbullying:

- Sending someone mean or threatening emails, instant messages or text messages.
- Tricking someone into revealing personal or embarrassing information and sending it to others.
- Breaking into someone's email or instant message account to send cruel or untrue messages while posing as that person.
- Creating websites to make fun of another person.
- Using websites to rate peers as prettiest, ugliest, etc.

#### Protect your children and their friends against cyberbullying by teaching them to:

- Protect personal information online, whether in instant message profiles, chat rooms, blogs or personal websites.
- Keep passwords private from everyone (except parents), even friends.
- Know what to do if someone sends a mean or threatening message. Don't respond; save it or print it and show it to an adult.
- Use caution when opening emails. Don't open emails from someone they don't know or from someone they know is a bully.
- Use caution when posting anything online. If you would not want ALL your classmates to see, then don't post it or send it.
- Let anger wear off before messaging or posting. Count to 10 and before clicking "send," ask, "How would I feel if I received this message?"

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- Help other children who are bullied online by not joining in and by reporting bullying messages to an adult.

Next, since most cyberbullying takes place at home, it's important that parents know how to prevent it.

- Keep your home computer in a busy area of your house so it is easy to monitor.
- Setup email and chat accounts with your children. Make sure that you know their screen names and passwords and prevent the use of any personal information in their online profiles.
- Regularly go over their instant messenger "buddy list" with them. Ask who each person is and how your children know him or her.
- Print out a list of commonly used acronyms in instant messenger and chat rooms and post it by your computer.
- Discuss cyberbullying with your children and ask if they have ever experienced it or seen it happen to someone.
- Teach children what it means to bully someone and about the serious consequences.
- Take cyberbullying seriously and report it if it is happening to your child or your child reports that it is happening to another child.

Cyberbullying can be a complicated issue, especially for adults who are not as familiar with using the Internet, instant messenger, or chat rooms as children. But like more typical forms of bullying, it can be prevented when parents are available to help and children know how to protect themselves.



### IRS-Imposter Phone Scam

*The latest imposter scam uses tax season to scare victims.*

The IRS Imposter Telephone Scam is an aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers that has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not. These con artists can sound convincing when they call; they use fake names and fraudulent IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card (Green Dot) or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information.

If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

*Note that the IRS will never:*

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.

- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

### Winterize your Home

*Prepare now for spring.*



Winter is generally a time when landscaping goes dormant. It is also a great time to cut landscaping back to maintain surveillance capabilities and in preparation for spring growth. Keep in mind, the ability to see and be seen is the number one deterrent to crime.

Often we plant landscaping with respect to how it looks now and not how it will look when fully grown. Plants that were once meant to be two to three foot shrubs become a wall of toweringly landscaping if not maintained. This reduces a neighborhood's ability to look out for each other. Here are some basic landscaping tips:

- Create a feeling of ownership and territory while maintaining surveillance.
- Trim tree canopies no lower than six (6) feet and away from roofs or balconies.
- Trim landscaping away from lights and address numbers.
- Maintain shrubs at around two (2) feet. This creates a line of surveillance between tree canopies and shrubs.
- Ensure landscaping does not block windows, doors or gates.

Find more exterior, perimeter and interior home security tips here <http://goo.gl/WpIRJB>. Let's work together to prevent neighborhood crime.

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## 2015 DUI Reduction Campaign



Beginning January 1, you might have noticed police cars throughout the city sporting a new graphic. These cars are driven by patrol officers dedicated to our new Driving under the Influence Reduction Campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to reduce the incidents of DUI collisions that cause injury and even death through community awareness and enhanced enforcement. Support our campaign; don't drink and drive and don't let your family or friends drink and drive.

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## Stay Connected

*Information is available if you know where to look.*

Want more information about police related subjects in Carlsbad? Here are five options:

1. Crime cases filed— [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com)
2. Facebook— [www.facebook.com/carlsbadpolicedepartment](http://www.facebook.com/carlsbadpolicedepartment)
3. Twitter— @carlsbadpolice
4. Email alerts—email your name, address, phone number and preferred email address to [jodee.sasway@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:jodee.sasway@carlsbadca.gov)
5. New and improved website— [www.carlsbadca.gov/police](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/police)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jodee Sasway at 760-931-2105  
or [jodee.sasway@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:jodee.sasway@carlsbadca.gov)  
**Police emergency call 911**  
**Police non-emergency call 760-931-2197**  
[www.carlsbadca.gov/police](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/police)